

Dear Mr. Calabrese:

Please consider this letter a request that H.B. 6501 be amended to specify that the SRBI process not delay a comprehensive evaluation or eligibility determination for special education for a child who may have a Specific Learning Disability.

H.B. 6501 runs counter to the Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) memorandum of January 21, 2011 specifically warning that this process is inconsistent with IDEA. Omission of this specificity in H.B. 6501 puts the Specific Learning Disabled child at a distinct disadvantage for getting the identification and services that the child is entitled to by law. Omission of this specificity has the potential of putting every school district in Connecticut at risk of litigation by the parents of a Specific Learning Disabled child who has been denied or delayed services that the child is legally entitled to.

Thank you,

Sue Haynie  
Norwalk, CT